

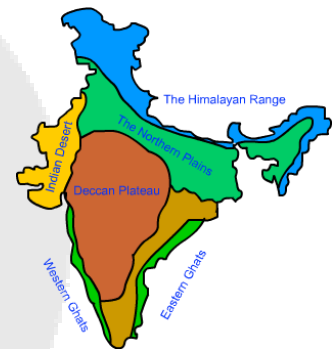
Physiographic Divisions of India



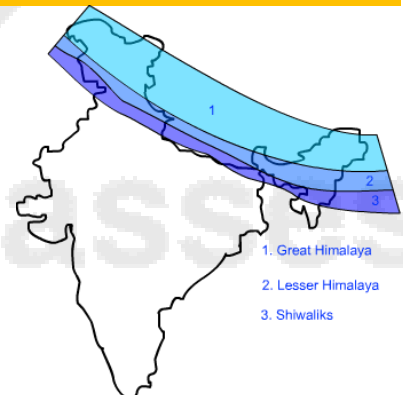
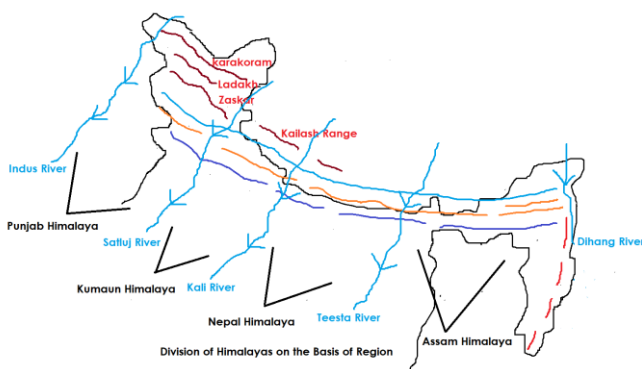
Physiography of India

- India is the seventh largest country in the world. It has land boundaries of 15,200 km and 6100 km long coast line. India's landmass covers 3.28 million square kilometer of area. This accounts for nearly 2.42 percent of the total geographical area of the world. **India is the largest country in terms of area and population in South-Asia.** It is surrounded by ocean.
- India is strategically located in Indian Ocean. It commands sea routes between Europe and Africa, South East Asia, far East Asia and Oceania. It is because of this that India shares good trade relation between many countries since ancient times. India has a good location in terms of sea and also well connected by land. **Various passes like Nathu-La (Sikkim), Shipki-La (Himachal Pradesh), Zoji-La and Burji la pass (Jammu & Kashmir) have their own importance.**

- India can be divided into following physical divisions viz.
- The Northern Mountains
- The North Indian Plain
- The Peninsular Plateau
- Great Indian Desert
- The coastal Regions
- Islands



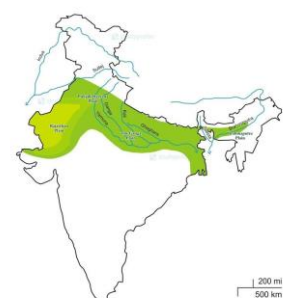
The Northern Mountains



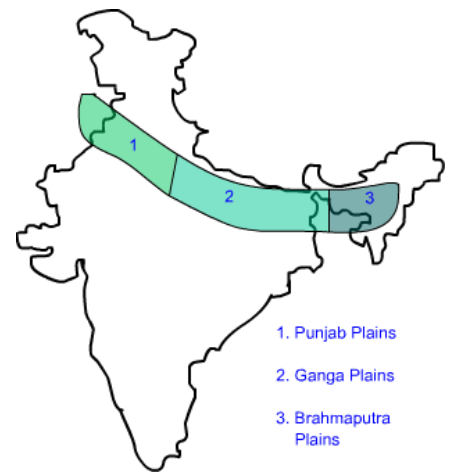
The Northern Plain

- Formed by the interplay of the three major river systems, namely– the Indus, the Ganga and the Brahmaputra along with their tributaries
- Composed of alluvial soil which has been deposited over millions of years, about 2400 km long and about 240 to 320 km broad.
- With a rich soil cover combined with adequate water supply and favourable climate it is agriculturally a very productive part of India**

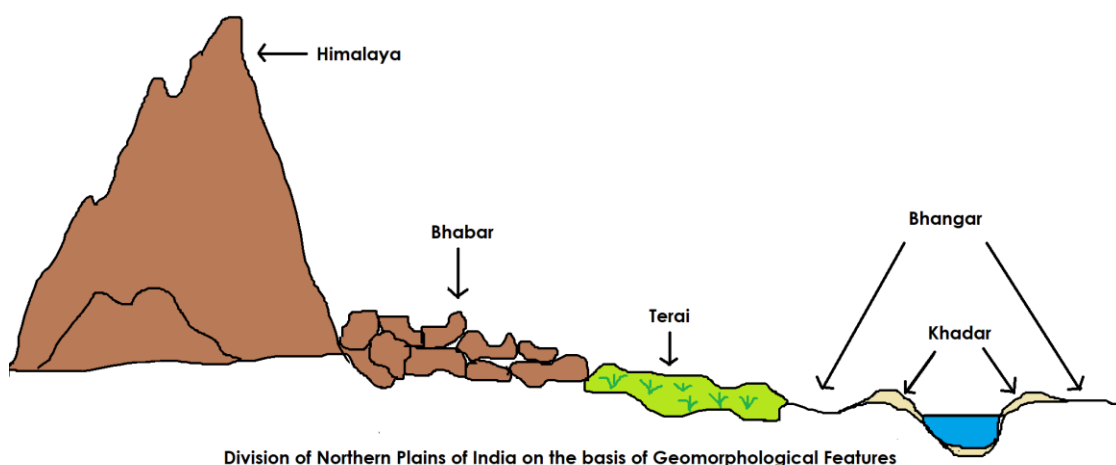
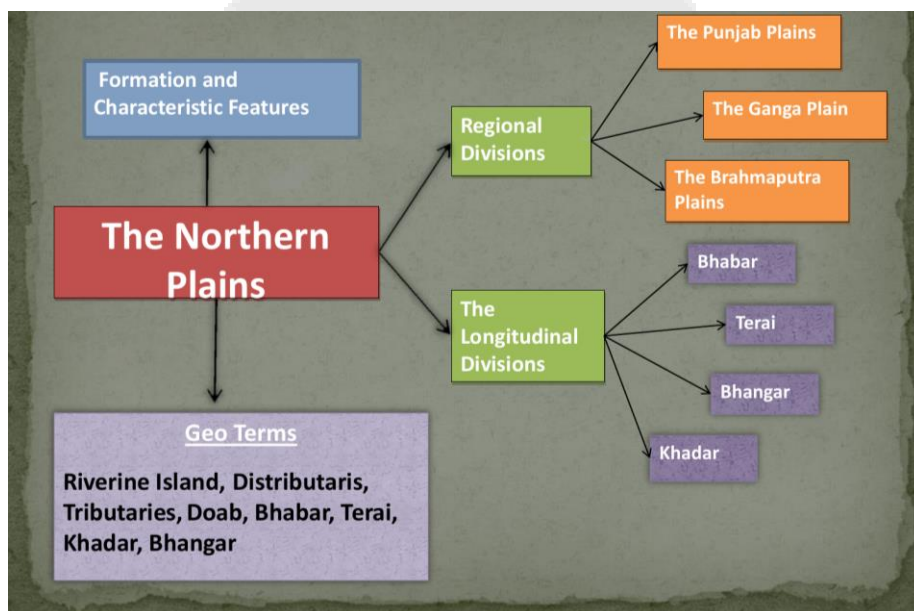
Great Plain of North India



Divided into three sections, viz. the Punjab Plain, the Ganga Plain and the Brahmaputra Plain.



Punjab Plains	Form the western part of the northern plain & formed by the Indus and its tributaries with major portion of this plains in Pakistan
Ganga Plains	Extends between Ghaggar and Tista rivers. The northern states, Haryana, Delhi, UP, Bihar, part of Jharkhand and West Bengal lie in the Ganga plains.
Brahmaputra Plains	This plain forms the eastern part of the northern plain and lies in Assam



Bhabar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •After descending from the mountains, the rivers deposit pebbles in a narrow belt. •The width of this belt is about 8 to 16 km; lies parallel to the Shiwaliks. •All the streams disappear in this region
Terai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The terai region lies towards south of the bhabar belt. •In this region, the streams reappear and make a wet, swampy and marshy region
Bhangar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bhangar is the largest part of the northern plain and is composed of the oldest alluvial soil. •They lie above the flood plains & resemble terraces. •The soil of this region is locally known as kankar and is composed of calcareous deposits
Khadar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The floodplains formed by younger alluvium are called khadar. •The soil in this region is renewed every year and is thus highly fertile.

The Peninsular Plateau

- The peninsular plateau is triangular in shape & surrounded by hills, composed of the oldest rocks as it was formed from the drifted part of the Gondwana land
- The plateau can be broadly divided into two regions, viz. the Central Highlands and the Deccan Plateau.

Divisions of the Peninsular Plateau

A)The Central Highlands

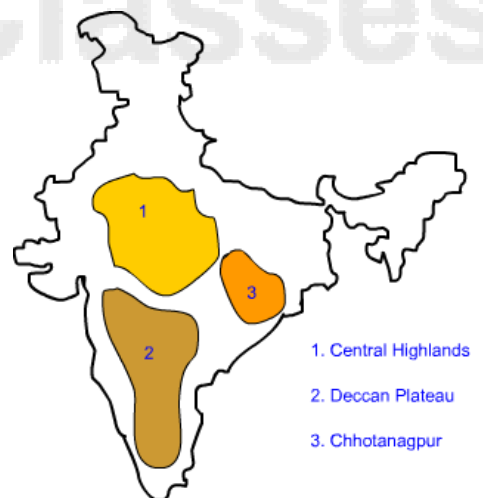
- 1.The Malwa Plateau
- 2.The Bundelkhand
- 3.The Baghelkhand
- 4.The Chotanagpur Plateau

B)The Deccan Plateau

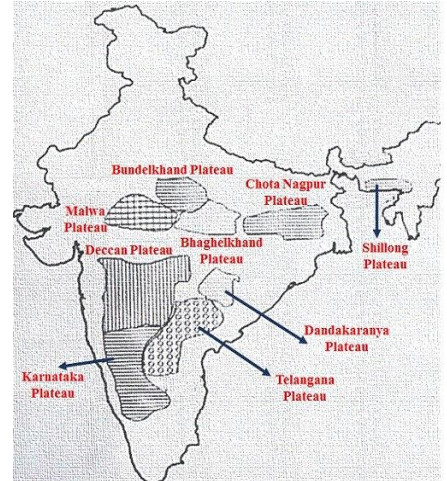
- 1.The Deccan Trap
- 2.The Western Ghats
- 3.The Eastern Ghats
- 4.The North – East extension

The Central Highlands

- The Central Highlands lies to the north of the Narmada River & covers the major portion of the Malwa plateau.
- The rivers in this region flow from southwest to northeast; which indicates the slope of this region.
- It is wider in the west and narrower in the east.
- Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand mark the eastward extension of this plateau.
- The plateau further extends eastwards into the Chhotanagpur plateau



- It extends from Narmada river and the northern plains. Aravallis is the important mountain which extends from Gujrat through Rajasthan to Delhi.
- The highest peak of the Aravallis hills is Gurushikhar (1722m) near Mt. Abu.
- The Malwa Plateau and Chhota Nagpur plateau are parts of the central highlands.
- River Betwa, Chambal and Ken are the important rivers of Malwa plateau.
- The valley of Narmada lies between the Vindhyas and the Satpura which flows east to west and joins the Arabian sea.



The Deccan Plateau

- Largest plateau in India, making up most of the southern part of the country, lies to the south of the Narmada River & shaped as a downward-pointing triangle.
- It is located between two mountain ranges, the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats.
- The average elevation of Western Ghats is 900 – 1600 metres; compared to 600 metres in case of Eastern Ghats.
- It is separated from the Gangetic plain to the north by the Satpura and Vindhya Ranges, which form its northern boundary.
- Home of thick dark soil (called regur), suitable for cotton cultivation.

- The Deccan plateau is broadly divided into: (a) The Western Ghats (b) The Eastern Ghats
- (a) The Western Ghats: **Western Ghats or Sahyadris** lie on the Western edge of the Deccan plateau. It runs parallel to the western coast for about 1600 km. The average elevation of the Western Ghats is 1000 metres. **The famous peaks in this area are Doda Betta, Anaimudi and Makurti.** The highest peak in this region is Anaimudi (2695m.). Western ghats are continuous and can be crossed through passes like Pal Ghat, Thal Ghat and Bhore Ghat. The rivers like Godavari, Bhima and Krishna flow eastward while the river Tapi flows westward.
- The famous waterfalls are Jog falls on Sharavati, Shiva Samudram falls on Kaveri etc.

(b) The Eastern Ghats: The Eastern Ghats are discontinuous low belt. Their average elevation is 600m. They run parallel to the east coast from south of Mahanadi valley to the Nilgiri hills. **The highest peak in this region is Mahendragiri (1501 m).** The famous hills are Mahendragiri hills, Nimaigiri hills in Orissa, Nallamallai hills in Southern Andhra Pradesh, Kollimalai and Pachaimalai in Tamilnadu. The area is drained by the Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri river systems.

The Nilgiri hills join Western & Eastern Ghats in the south.

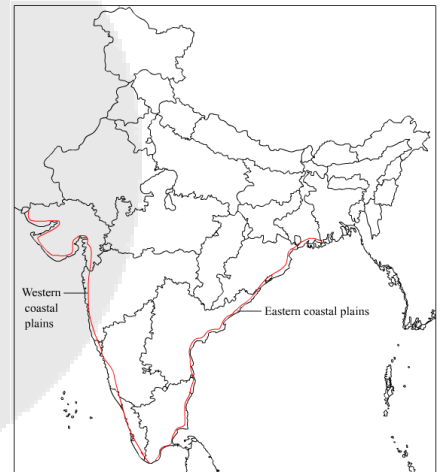
The Indian Desert

- The Indian desert lies towards the western margins of the Aravali Hills.
- This region gets scanty rainfall which is less than 150 mm in a year, Hence the climate is arid and vegetation is scanty.
- Luni is the only prominent river but some streams appear during rainy season.



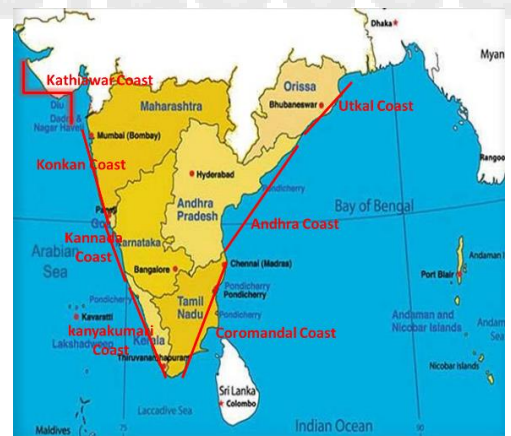
The Coastal Plains

The Peninsular plateau is flanked by stretch of narrow coastal strips which run along the Arabian Sea on the west and along the Bay of Bengal on the east.



Western Coastal Plains

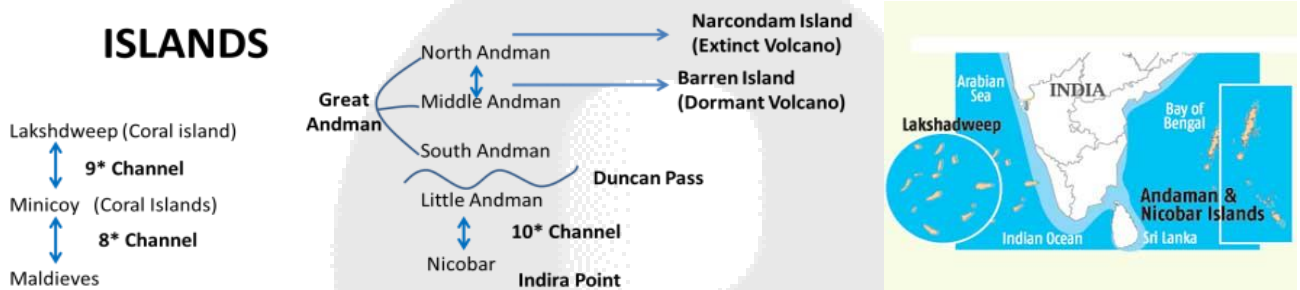
- Kathiawar Coast → Kutch to Daman (Tapti, Narmada, Sabarmati & Mahi river deposit huge load of sediments in the Gulf of Cambay & form estuaries)
- Konkan Coast → Between Daman & Goa
- Kannada Coast → Between Goa to Mangalore
- Kanyakumari Coast → Between Mangalore to Cape Camorin
- Malabar coast à Kannada Coast + Kanyakumari Coast



Eastern Coastal Plains

- It stretches from Tamil Nadu in the south to West Bengal in the north.
- Eastern coastal plane is mainly divided into following sections
- Utkal coast → Deltaic plains of Ganga to Mahanadi delta (Famous Chilka lake is located in this plain)
- Andhra Coast → Utkal plains to Pulicat lake (Contains deltas of Godavari & Krishna Rivers, & famous Kolleru lake)
- Northern Circars → Utkal Coast + Andhra Coast (Between Mahanadi & Krishna)
- Coromandal Coast → Between Krishna & Kanyakumari (Consist of Kaveri Delta)

The Islands



- The major islands groups of India are Andaman and Nicobar Archipelago (A chain of islands similar in origin) in Bay of Bengal and Lakshadweep islands in Arabian Sea.
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands were formed due to collision between Indian Plate and Burma Minor Plate [part of Eurasian Plate][Similar to formation of Himalayas].
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands are southward extension of Arakan Yoma range [Myanmar][Arakan Yoma in itself is an extension of Purvanchal Hills].
- Lakshadweep Islands are coral islands.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

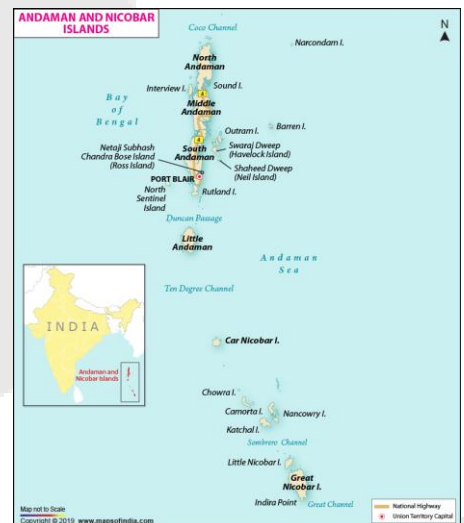
- This archipelago is composed of around 572 big and small islands
- The Andaman islands are divided into three main islands i.e. North, Middle, and South.
- Duncan passage separates Little Andaman from South Andaman.
- The Great Andaman group of islands in the north is separated by the Ten Degree Channel from the Nicobar group in the south.
- The Grand Channel is between the Great Nicobar islands and the Sumatra islands of Indonesia.
- The Coco Strait is between the North Andaman islands and the Coco Islands of Myanmar.



- Port Blair, the capital of Andaman Nicobar Islands lies in the South Andaman.
- Among the Nicobar islands, the Great Nicobar is the largest. It is the southernmost island and is very close to Sumatra island of Indonesia. The Car Nicobar is the northernmost.
- Most of these islands are made of tertiary sandstone, limestone, and shale resting on basic and ultrabasic volcanoes [Similar to the Himalayas].
- The BARREN and NARCONDAM Islands, north of Port Blair, are volcanic islands [these are the only active volcanoes in India][There are no active volcanoes in mainland India].
- Saddle peak (737 m) in North Andaman is the highest peak.

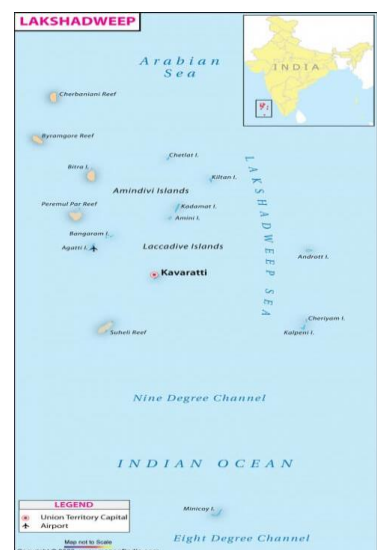
- The Andaman and Nicobar Island has a tropical marine climate influenced by the seasonal flow of monsoon winds.
- The region is under dense tropical rain forests. The coastal regions have mangrove forests.
- Coconut fruit is the staple food of the people. Fisheries, piggery is also followed.
- The Islands are also famous for the largest and rarest species of crab, the Giant Robber Crab. It can climb the coconut trees and break the hard shell of the fruit.
- Andaman islands are home to the only known paleolithic people the Sentinelese. The Sentinelese are one of the last humans on earth who remain untouched by modern civilization.
- State Animal of Andaman is the dugong (sea mammal) really endemic to Indo-Pacific seacoast areas, especially to the Andaman Islands. [Sea-cow is a herbivorous marine mammal].

- Ross Island was renamed Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, Neil Island as Shaheed Dweep, and the Havelock Island as Swaraj Dweep.
- Ross Island is in the South Andaman region and 3km east of Port Blair.



Lakshadweep Islands

- Lakshadweep Islands situated in the Arabian Sea is a group of 36 islands having an area of 32 square kilometers and extending between 8°N and 12°N latitude.
- The main islands under the Lakshadweep Islands group are:
- Kavaratti
- Agatti
- Minicoy
- Amini



- The name Lakshadweep was adopted on 1 November 1973
- The Lakshadweep Islands group is a Union Territory administered by the President through a Lt. Governor.
- It is the smallest Union Territory of India.
- Kavaratti is the administrative capital of the Lakshadweep Islands.
- Minicoy Island, located to the south of the nine-degree channel is the largest island among the Lakshadweep group.
- 8 Degree Channel (8 degrees north latitude) separates islands of Minicoy and Maldives.
- 9 Degree Channel (9 degrees north latitude) separates the island of Minicoy from the main Lakshadweep archipelago.

New Moore Island

- New Moore, also known as South Talpatti and Purbasha Island is a small uninhabited offshore sandbar landform (Marine Landforms) in the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of the Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta region.
- It emerged in the Bay of Bengal in the aftermath of the Bhola cyclone in November 1970. It keeps on emerging and disappearing.



Diu Island

- It is located off the south coast of Kathiawar. Diu is an offshore island on the western coast, off the Gulf of Cambay, bordering the Junagarh district. It is separated from the Gujarat Coast by a tidal creek.
- Diu Island is famous for the historical Diu fort and beautiful beaches. A massive fort built by the Portuguese dominates the skyline.
- Nagoa beach is the most famous in Diu. Another beautiful beach is Ghoghla beach.



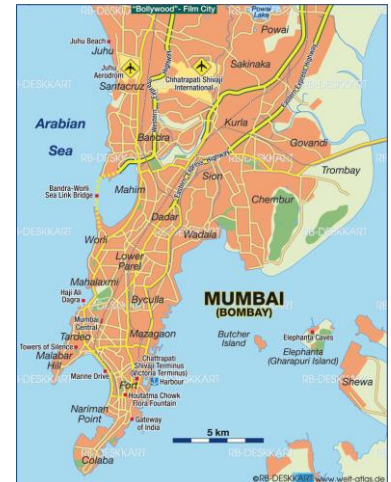
Mājuli Island

- Mājuli is a large river island in the Brahmaputra river, in Assam.
- It was formed due to course changes by the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries, mainly the Lohit.



Islands Off Mumbai: Butcher Island

- Butcher Island (Jawahar Dweep) is an island off the coast of Mumbai.
- It has an oil terminal used by the port authorities to offload it from oil tankers.
- The crude oil is stored in oil containers on the island.
- It is located 8.25 kilometers (5.13 mi) from the Gateway of India.



Islands off andhra pradesh: Sri Harikota

- It houses India's only satellite launch center in the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (also known as SHAR) and is used by the Indian Space Research Organization to launch satellites using multi-stage rockets such as the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle.
- Sriharikota separates the Pulicat Lake from the Bay of Bengal and is home to the town of Pulicat.



Islands Off Tamil Nadu: Pamban Island

- It is located between India and Sri Lanka in the Gulf of Mannar and in the Ramanathapuram district of the state of Tamil Nadu.
- It is also known as Rameswaram Island.
- Most of Pamban Island is covered with white sand.
- The chain formed by Pamban Island, the shoals of Adam's Bridge, and Mannar Island of Sri Lanka separate Palk Bay and the Palk Strait in the northeast from the Gulf of Mannar in the southwest.



Katchatheevu Island

- It is an uninhabited off-shore island in the Palk Strait originally owned by a king of Ramnad (present-day Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu).
- The island is used by fishermen to dry their nets.
- During the British rule, it was administered jointly by India and Sri Lanka.
- In the early 20th century, Sri Lanka claimed territorial ownership over the islet, so in 1974 India ceded the island to Sri Lanka, through a joint agreement.



Other Islands of India

- Abdul Kalam Island/ Wheeler Island- Abdul Kalam Island is located off the Odisha coast. It is India's most advanced missile testing site. The island was earlier named after an English commandant Lieutenant Wheeler.

Parcham Classes

MCQ

Which point of India is called Pygmalion Point?

- a) Northern
- b) Eastern
- c) Western
- d) Southern

Which one of the following forms the real watershed of the Peninsula?

- a) Anamudi
- b) Pushpagiri
- c) Perumal Peak
- d) Western Ghats

Which is the largest physiographic division of India?

- a) The Northern Mountains
- b) The Great Plains
- c) The Peninsular Plateau
- d) The Islands

Which is the highest mountain in the Nilgiri Hills?

- a) Anamudi
- b) Chembra Peak
- c) Dolphin's Nose
- d) Doddabetta

Which river bounds Bundelkhand Uplands in the north?

- a) Ganga
- b) Yamuna
- c) Chambal
- d) Ramganga

Which is the coldest place in India?

- a) Drass
- b) Hemkund
- c) Kufri
- d) Lachen

Drass is a small town in the state of Jammu and Kashmir which is located on the Kargil-Srinagar Highway or NH-1.

Which basin is also called Chhattisgarh Plain?

- a) Mahanadi
- b) Godavari
- c) Krishna
- d) Cauvery

Parcham Classes

Question	Answer
1	D
2	C
3	B
4	A
5	D
6	D
7	A



Parcham Classes